



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Adar I+Adar II+Nisan 5771 ■ March+April 2011

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Purim Carnival and Spiel

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 11:00-11:30AM AND 11:30-12N.

Please see Rebecca Weiner's article on page 7 for more information on the Purim spiel.

Congregational Second Night Seder

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 5:30 PM

CSZ's "Home Made" Passover seder is back for its sixth fabulous year!

Music in the Mishkan

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 4:00PM

The acclaimed Bridge Players return to CSZ for the twelfth season of Music in the Mishkan. Our new Petrov piano will be featured at this program.

Beyond Gender, Sex, and Race: A class with Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan

SATURDAYS, MARCH 5 AND APRIL 9, 5:00PM

Exploring The Eight Chapters of Maimonides on Ethics, and related works, we will ask how Maimonides answers the question of our time.

Please see pages 4-5 for more details on these and all our other spring programs.



Retreating to Community

BY REBECCA WEINER

*"Wherever I turn my eyes, around on Earth or to the heavens
I see you in the field of stars
I see You in the yield of the land
in every breath and sound, a blade of grass, a simple flower, an echo of Your holy Name."*

The Congregation Sha'ar Zahav community retreat is an incredible opportunity to mingle, nosh, pray and get to know other members of the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav community. Imagine sitting outside just as the sun is beginning to set and linking arms to sing Hine Ma Tov. Imagine taking a nature hike for Shabbat morning services. The community retreat takes place every June at the wonderful Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma. The setting is stunning, the food is delicious and the staff is always so happy to have our community come and visit. Some of the activities include prayer services, teachings by our clergy and other scholars, swimming in the lake and gorgeous nature hikes.

The three-day retreat, which starts on Friday afternoon and ends on Sunday, also affords opportunities for participants to deepen their connections with each other. But the retreat is more than the activities and beautiful settings: It is a time that gives us time. The time to have real conversations and deeply connect in ways that shmoozing over oneg cookies doesn't always afford. It also

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Rabbi's Study



AS I WRITE my April-May column, ironically on this first day of February, an atypically gorgeous, sunny-hot, beach-type day, I find myself filled with anticipation for all that Spring brings forth. Who knows what this Winter has entailed for you? Whether or

not you've gotten caught in this Winter's storms, inherent in Spring is change...and the Jews know a lot about living with change.

And so we think about Passover, imaging Pesach and the Spring cleaning its preparation will entail, and I ask the question:

In what ways has my 'Egypt' served as a womb to nurture and protect me?

How does my 'Egypt' now constrict and oppress me? What habitual responses have served me well in 'Egypt,' but are no longer effective after liberation?

—Joel Ziff, *Mirrors in Time*

Where will we be this Passover? And what transitions will we have experienced between now and the inscrutable Then?

The symbols of our Seder plate invite us to recognize, honor and celebrate the epic story of our people's history. The parsley is tangible evidence of the greenery: new leaves, new babies, new puppies, new chances, new beginnings, new love – Spring! The parsley is dipped in salt water; the salt water represents the tears and the sweat of our 400 years of slavery. We read in the Hagaddah that “each of us is obligated to consider ourselves as coming out of Egypt.” This “coming out of Egypt” is an archetypal image of life transitions.

As you're sweeping the schmutz and chametz from your home, be sure to consider these questions:

Wherever you are in your own life's course, and whatever you identify as your 'Egypt,' where will you be this Passover? How will you let the themes of your inherited and chosen Jewish tradition speak to you and call you forth into your own positive transformative experience? This year, personalize the

symbols of your Seder plate. Ask questions of one another as to what your guests' associations with Pesach are.

I think of Passover as seedlings that have been hibernating, gathering strength, and are now bursting forth — kinetic, vital, saturated with possibility. Neither the work nor the remembering will ever be finished in our lifespan; may we remember that liberation is not a destination but an ongoing labor of love. Propelled out of another 'Egypt,' another Winter, we reflect on all that has brought us to this moment, and spread wide our arms to lovingly embrace all that lies ahead.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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Purim and the Rainbow



PURIM IS MY least favorite Jewish holiday. I have nothing against the story – although I do think Vashti gets a raw deal. I like to imagine a midrash that brings Vashti and Esther together to create Persia's first abused women's shelter, as they insist that women should not be used as pawns in some hero's power play.

But, no, it's not really the story that gets to me. Quite frankly, I just don't love how we celebrate Purim. I'm a little embarrassed to say this, but I'm just not comfortable around people in costume. I never know how to react. Do I treat you like the person you are every other day of the year or as the person your costume represents? Often, of course, a Purim costume brings out the sillier, more flamboyant parts of someone's personality, and I get a little overwhelmed by it all.

It's my problem, though, not yours, and I'm learning to deal. I've been coming to CSZ's Purim celebrations now for the past couple of years and I'm figuring out how to put aside my old doubts and insecurities, and be just a wee bit flamboyant. After all, the story of Purim is the story of one woman putting aside her own doubts and insecurities in order to save her people. I don't think that my putting on a feather boa will save anyone, but, who knows? It just might.

What I love about Purim, however, is the generosity of spirit and the joy of giving that the holiday requires. We are told to send *mishloach manot*, gifts of food or drink, to each other, and charity to the poor, in order to ensure that everyone has enough food for the Purim feast. According to Wikipedia, the giving of *mishloach manot* is meant "to increase love and friendship among Jews as a counter to Haman's assertion that the Jewish people are characterized by strife and disunity." In other words, giving *mishloach manot* doesn't just feed our bellies; it feeds our souls.

While the mitzvah of giving *mishloach manot* is usually fulfilled by giving baskets of food to friends and acquaintances, there are other ways to feed a community. Our Rainbow Fund campaign, which will begin this year shortly after

Purim, is a major source of "nourishment" for our Sha'ar Zahav community.

Right now, you might be thinking all the things that we always say: That our membership dues only cover about 50% of the costs of running the synagogue, so the Rainbow Fund is needed to supplement our dues, to help pay salaries, keep the lights on, buy wine and juice for Kiddush. That's all true, but I think the Rainbow Fund nourishes us in other ways as well, just as *mishloach manot* feeds more than our bellies.

Every year since the Rainbow Fund campaign began, I have been both a caller, asking other CSZ members to donate, and a donor. Like Purim, each role requires that I put aside my doubts and insecurities in order to enrich my life and community.

As a caller, I love talking to you about Sha'ar Zahav, finding out what you like about our community and what you would like us to do better, and I'm honored to share that moment of commitment with you, when you make a pledge to help support and sustain our community. As a donor, I love doing what I can to help feed our community. I feel stronger, more secure when I help secure our community's future.

Please join me this year in nourishing our community. Andy Schwartz and Ami Zusman are this year's Rainbow Fund chairs; contact them or me (president@shaarzahav.org) if you'd like to be a caller. And when someone calls you and asks for your support, say yes and give. Our community will thank you, with its heart.

I hope to see you on Saturday, March 19th for our Purim service and celebration. I just might be the one wearing the feather boa.

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Aaron Danzig
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Volume 33, issue 3

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

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Special Events

Music in the Mishkan

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 4:00PM

The acclaimed Bridge Players return to CSZ for the twelfth season of Music in the Mishkan. CSZ member and violinist Randall Weiss will be joined by his wonderful colleagues Leslie Ludena (violin), Natalia Vershilova (viola), Victoria Ehrlich (cello) and Marilyn Thompson (piano). Our new

Petrov piano will be featured at this program, and the next one, on May 8.

The Jeffrey A. Miller Scholar in Residence with Andrea Hodos

APRIL 1 AND 2

Please watch the weekly email bulletins for more information.

Classes

Beyond Gender, Sex, and Race: The Development of Character and Virtue in Rambam's Eight Chapters

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 5:00PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 5:00 PM

Taught by Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan. Exploring The Eight Chapters of Maimonides on Ethics, and related works, we will ask how Maimonides answers the question of our time: Does character and virtue transcend the body? What is the

mind-body connection in rabbinic Judaism? Can we reach each other, overcoming differences in gender and sexual identity, through the teachings of a 12th century wandering Jew? We will learn, argue, share, drink a little schnapps, and conclude with Havdalah.

Meetings

CSZ-SFOP Organizing Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Join us in building relationships and pursuing justice. Our current focus is how we can help improve state government so that more money will be available for health care, education and other worthy causes. There are many ways to be engaged, to develop leadership and relationships, to ACT. Be in touch and find the right fit for you. For more information, please contact Dana Vinicoff at vinicoff@hotmail.com.

Va'ad Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 6:45 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 6:45 PM

All are welcome to attend and listen to Sha'ar Zahav's monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

Chavurot

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 6:45 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 6:45 PM

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at jjisrael68@yahoo.com.

Post-Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 9:00PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite

2nd Night Passover Seder

Tuesday, April 19, 5:30 pm

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's "Home Made" Passover seder is back for its seventh fabulous year! Celebrate Pesach with Kosher chicken provided by the synagogue and parve food to accompanying it provided by you. This second night seder has so many virtues: it is extremely kid-friendly; it uses the amazing Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Haggadah; it give ample opportunity for singing; it provides you with a chance to support Mazon. This event always sells out. Please reserve your place by calling Shaun Hannan at 415-861-6932.

you to join the Post Oneg Group for a pay-your-own-way dinner at a local restaurant. We welcome all current, prospective, or new members. For more information, please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com

Service Leaders Chavurah

The Service Leaders Chavurah is a dynamic group exploring prayer and service leading techniques, meeting monthly. If you are interested in joining, please contact Cantor Sharon Bernstein: cantorbernstein@gmail.com.

Services

Purim Carnival and Spiel

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

The Purim Carnival will be in the Oneg room from 11:00-11:30am. The Purim Spiel will be held in the Sanctuary from 11:30-12n. Please see Rebecca Weiner's article on page 7 for more information on the Purim spiel.

Erev Purim: Ma'ariv and Megillah Reading

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 6:00PM

Join us for the unique Purim Ma'ariv service in the sanctuary: not quite a weekday, not quite Shabbat or a Festival, but full of celebration and worship.

Adult Purim Celebration

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, EVENING

Celebrate Purim at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav with the Purim Revue! Reflect on the Purim story in a contemporary cabaret style retelling. Revel in the line-up of "new acts" that the King's men track down for him after Vashti's rebellion. What happens in the Shushan stays in Shushan... what could that be? Come and find out. Please watch the weekly email bulletin for further details.

Congregational Second Night Seder

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 5:30 PM

CSZ's "Home Made" Passover seder is back for its sixth fabulous year! Celebrate Pesach with the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav community at our seder led by Cantor Sharon Bernstein. Register by calling the Shaun Hannah at the office,

415-861-6932 or by email; shaun@shaarzahav.org. At this year's Seder, as in years past, you will have an opportunity to support MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. If you have the availability, please consider volunteering to help bring this Seder to life.

Yizkor Service

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 10:00 AM

All are welcome to join CSZ as we hold Yizkor services, the service of remembrance. This is a beautiful service that is traditionally held on the seventh day of Passover. All are welcome as we say Kaddish and honor our loved ones through the mitzvah of remembering.

Retreating to Community

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gives us deep quiet, the quiet we can't always find in the hustle and bustle of our urban lives.

Walker Creek Ranch, is both gorgeous and only a quick shlepp from the Bay Area. Generally, it takes an hour and a half or maybe two hours to drive there. But once you arrive, you are transported to a whole new and beautiful Jewish space. You have your choice of accommodations including camping, staying in family cabins or having a private room. You can request vegetarian meals (or other dietary requests). It is a great place to bring your bike, swim suit, the book you were meaning to read all spring—and questions for the clergy. Last year, we had three Rabbis and one Cantor in attendance.

We begin the weekend with a Friday night outdoor service, full of song and great drashes. (It was in fact a Friday night service at the Retreat that was my introduction to this wonderful community, when I started several years ago.) The Saturday morning service offerings include a wonderful prayer hike that wanders through the beauty that is Walker Creek Ranch or a traditional Shabbat morning service. Then, on Saturday, we have work-

shop offerings throughout the day. In the past, these workshops have included topics as diverse as tie dying tallit, singing Chassidic niggunim, and Pilate's classes. There are always wonderful activities for the young people—art projects, scavenger hunts, nature hikes and more. Saturday's evening activities have included film discussions, wine and cheese tastings and games. They are all excellent opportunities for having long and meaningful shmooze-fests with your fellow congregants.

There is a perception that the community retreat is just for families with children; this is absolutely not true. The retreat is for every member of the community. In fact, it provides time and space for all different groups within our community to build friendships, as they experience the remarkable offerings of this program. I often hear people lament that they would like to be more deeply connected to the community and make meaningful friendships. Well, here is your opportunity. Come join us this year on June 3-5. It is really easy to register. If you are interested, please contact me at becca@shaarzahav.org.

The Good, the Bad and the Musical Theater



EVER since I was a little girl, Purim has been my most favorite Jewish holiday. Purim embodies so many

things are important to my identity: costuming, standing up for my beliefs, participating in spectacle, seeing things from new perspectives, and reveling in continuity of the Jewish people. And of course, the pageantry and *drama* of the Purim Speil.

I strongly believe that you have to create a myriad of channels for students to connect to Judaism. Jewish education should be a full bodied experience that incorporates lots of creativity and different modalities for learning. Silliness and shtick has always been a standard part of Jewish education even in the most formal settings. I cherish the opportunities that Purim provides to create a wonderful vehicle for our more dramatic and creative students. It sometimes seems that from January to March, Beit Sefer becomes not only a religious and Hebrew school but also a school for the performing arts. I truly believe that this adds to the students' Jewish experience and shows them another way to love Judaism.

This year's spiel promises to be fabulous, fun and more importantly a really powerful message. Many students helped to write this year's play, which addresses the issue of bullying. When the students were talking about their experiences of bullying, they easily connected to the Purim story's powerful example on the importance of standing up to bullies. As we discussed, worked and wrote, I was constantly amazed at the insight and thoughtfulness our students showed. I don't want to give away too much about this year's spiel –so you will just have to come to see it on March 19 at 11:30am, in the sanctuary. But the

students created a response to the bullying incident that saddened our community earlier in the year. They have taken a story from Jewish history and turned it inside out to address a very real issue of today. I believe that is the best kind of Jewish experience and education. Our students have created a new Meggillah, and, as Jews have done for centuries, they have added their own unique commentary. Our spiel this year is fun, but also a real statement about overcoming bad impulses and following your righteous intention.

I am so grateful to this community and my students for giving me a chance once a year to return to my theater roots, to share this holiday I love so, and to boo and hiss at the hatred in the world and stand up for love. I hope to see you on the March 19 for what promises to be a creative explosion of Jewish content and creativity.

B'Shalom,
Rebecca

FAMILY CALENDAR

Friday Night Live

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 6:00P

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 6:00 PM

Calling all Kids! Bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups and celebrate Shabbat with us. Designed for children 0 to 6 years, but all are welcome. Our Friday Night Live service will be followed by dinner in the Oneg Room. We will provide pizza (sponsored by parents), but we encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well. FNL continues on the first Friday of the month during the school year.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Purim Carnival, 11:00-12:00n

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Shabbat Simcha –10-12:30, adults only

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- 2 Wednesday Class
- 5 Shabbat Class
- 9 Wednesday Class
- 12 Shabbat Class
- 16 Wednesday Class
- 23 Wednesday Class
- 26 Shabbat Class
- 31 Wednesday Class

APRIL

- 2 Shabbat Class
- 6 Wednesday Class
- 9 Shabbat Simcha
(10:00-12:30- Adults Only)
- 13 Wednesday Class
- 16 NO CLASS
- 20 NO CLASS
- 23 NO CLASS
- 27 Wednesday Class
- 30 Shabbat Class



Cameron Elizabeth Berkley Kaplan will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 23, 2011. The family joined Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in

2007, when Cameron decided to have a Bat Mitzvah. Cameron adopted Congregation Sha'ar Zahav with gusto and has loved being a member.

Cameron's tutor, Gabriel Lampert has been an incredible resource and patient teacher. After agreeing to be her mentor, Gabriel learned that Cameron began her Hebrew studies a year late, but he didn't skip a beat. Cameron has studied diligently and is excited and confident about fulfilling her dream.

A 7th grader at San Francisco Day School, Cameron started a business making chocolate-dipped cake on sticks—called lollicakes. Although baking is new, Cameron has been modeling small, intricately detailed art pieces in clay for several years and is transferring this eye for detail to her lollicakes. Cameron also enjoys camping, biking, swimming in San Francisco Bay, reading voraciously, and singing with the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's choir. She volunteers each week at Tree Frog Treks, introducing kids to reptiles. She has many volunteer interests, and supports local urban farming efforts by volunteering at Alemany Farm and Hayes Valley Farm.

Cameron entered the 2010 NaNoWriMo challenge to complete a 50,000 word novel in one month. She was one of 20 in the "adult" category to complete the challenge.



Emmet Odegard will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat Ha Gadol, April 16. Emmet comes from a family with a short, informal tradition that children are likely to try

to live their names. Her name means truth and as a young teen there has been a 'whole lotta truth going round!'

Emmet is a 7th grader at James Lick Middle School in the Spanish Immersion Program. She has lived and breathed Spanish since day care and it is a big part of her identity, no less than the multiple ethnicities in her family. In fact, it was her interest in her Jewish side that brought her family to Congregation

Sha'ar Zahav six years ago. She has loved working with her mentor, Ron Lezell.

This past summer Emmet attended Olin-Sang Ruby Union Institute, a Reform Movement camp in Oconomowoc, WI and is now a true camper. Her volunteer work includes serving food to those in need at the Civic Center with Curry Without Worry and helping out at the San Francisco Food Bank—both causes that are close to her heart. She also worked as a Spanish tutor for a young child this past year.

Emmet is a wonderful big sister to Gabriella. She is a competitive swimmer with the Balboa Sharks and attends regular yoga classes at Bernal Yoga. She is close to a huge tribe of cousins, on both sides of the family, who reside in many cities and countries.

High School Preview MONDAY, April 11
7:00-8:30 PM

(Parents)

Get expert advice on how to choose the right school.

(Students)

Experience science labs, enjoy visual & performing arts, and explore the JCHS campus.

RSVP at 415.345.9777 x124

Hosted by the
Jewish Community High School
Learn more at www.jchsofthebay.org

MARCH 2011



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					26 ADAR II 6:00 pm Friday Night Live	27 ADAR II 10:15 am Shabbat Service
28 ADAR II	29 ADAR II	1 NISAN	2 NISAN	3 NISAN 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	4 NISAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	5 NISAN 10:15 am Shabbat Service Shabbat Simcha 5:00 pm Beyond Gender
6 NISAN	7 NISAN	8 NISAN	9 NISAN 7:00 pm Israel Trip Educational	10 NISAN	11 NISAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	12 NISAN 10:15 am Shabbat Service Bat mitzvah of Emmet Odegaard
13 NISAN	14 NISAN	15 NISAN Congregational 2nd Seder Office Closed	16 NISAN 7:00 pm Israel Trip Educational	17 NISAN	18 NISAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	19 NISAN 10:15 am Shabbat Service Bat Mitzvah of Cameron Kaplan
20 NISAN	21 NISAN 10:00 am Yizkor Office closed	22 NISAN 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	23 NISAN	24 NISAN	25 NISAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	26 NISAN 10:15 am Shabbat Service

AIDS Fund

Neil Hart in memory of Tim Elliott

CSZ Siddur Bookplates

Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah in memory of Adrienne Gordon

Irene Ogus in loving memory of Richard Inlander, past president: 10/4/1943–05/09/2008

The Lubeck-Weiner Family in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah

Stanley & Ruth Tyler in honor of Michael Tyler's Milestone Birthday

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of his cousin, Ellen Albin in honor of Ron Lezell in memory of Fred Segal in memory of Aaron Nacamulli, Cheryl Orvis, Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Eli Weinstein, Ron Wilmot, Ziggy Gimincher, Allen Harris and Jason Gaber

Henry Carrey in memory of his grandfather, Ruven Kirzhner

Jeffrey Davidson

Steve Elman & Tom Holt in honor of Michael Tyler's 50th birthday

Bill Fike

Lisa Finkelstein

Jonathan Fuchs

Avraham Giannini in honor of Rabbi Angel

Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher "in honor of our wedding" in memory of Shirley Weiner in memory of Martin David Dulberg

Murray Kane

Nancy Koch in memory of Judy Macks

Ellen Kotler in honor of Karen Schiller's wonderful service as congregation president

Andrea Kress

Deborah Levy in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah in memory of Shirley Weiner

David Lowe

Andrew Mann

Jeff Merriman-Cohen in honor of Michael Tyler

Eve Meyer & James Edlin in memory of Fredi Field

Alan Michels & Laureen Kim in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah

Tim Montalbo

Florence & Steve Nacamulli in memory of Daisy

Hon. Stuart & Lee Pollak in honor of Rabbi Camille Angel

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Shirley Weiner

Nina Raff & Annie Winters in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah

Karen Schiller in honor of Kelly Thiemann entering the covenant in memory of Shirley Weiner

in memory of Martin David Dulberg with prayers for the good health of Fred Tannenbaum

Karen Sternstein in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah

Lonnie Weiss

Judith Wolfe in honor of Martin Tannenbaum and Alex Ingersoll

Lydia & David Zinn in honor of Ora Prochovnick

Ami Zusman in memory of her mother, Hilda Saperstein in memory of her father, Benjamin Herzl Saperstein

Music in the Mishkan Donations

Batya Kalis

Ron Lezell

Sam Thal

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Diane & Ed Bernbaum in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah

Sue Bojdak & Deb Yates in honor of Malik Bernstein's bar mitzvah

Avi Goldberg & Will Garcia in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah

Ida Kuluk in memory of Shirley Weiner in honor of Sue Bojdak in memory of Phyllis Mintzer

Jim Manheimer in honor of Sue Bojdak.

Mark Oliver & Steve Polsky in memory of Shirley Weiner

Prochovnick, Ora & Frantz, Rena in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah

Ami Zusman in memory of Shirley Weiner

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of A.J. Bernestein & Harold Schwartz

James Carlson

Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher "in honor of our wedding"

Neil Hart in memory of Peggy & Charlie Hart

in memory of Syd Feldman

Avner Lapovsky

Mark Oliver & Steve Polsky in honor of Rabbi Angel's 10th Anniversary

Sharyn Saslafsky in honor of Rabbi Angel, Cantor Bernstein, and the CSZ staff

Deborah Udin & Lucy Cefalu in honor Rabbi Camille Shira Angel's 10th anniversary

Steve Wiesner

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

John Arnold in honor of Jon Funk on the occasion of Hanukkah

James Carlson in memory of Rita Roginski

Jonathan Funk in memory of his mother, Pearl Funk in memory of aunt, Bernice Wiseman in memory of grandmother, Minnie Wiseman in appreciation of Sharyn Saslafsky, Nancy Meyer and Steve Mazer for co-chairing

Cantor Unplugged IV

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in appreciation of Cantor Sharon Bernstein's magnificent performance at Cantor Unplugged IV

Batya Kalis in honor of Cantor Bernstein

Rainbow Fund 5771

Bernard Choden & Lois Scott in memory of Bernie's cousin, Eli Chodorowski

Alan Gordon & Steve Schumacher
Susan Tubbesing

Life Cycles

Mazel tov to **Malik Bernstein** on the occasion of his becoming a bar mitzvah

Mazel tov to **Rosa Ortega** on the birth of her twin babies, Yeroham Navii and Galit Yaeli Ortega, born one minute apart.

Naches

Mazel tov to **Ben Hansen**, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav staff for the last three years and son of **Regina Wurst**, who graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA in Communications.

Mazel tov to **Leslie Kane** on being recently appointed Executive Director at Sherith Israel.

December

3/4

Bimah Flowers & Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **The Bojdak-Yates Family** In celebration of Sue's bat mitzvah and in honor of our community Friday Evening of Klezmer music, dancing and food Generously Provided by **Martin Tannenbaum & Alex Ingersoll** In memory of Larry Tannenbaum, who loved a good time

10/11

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **The Cymrot-Wu Family** In memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu

17/18

Friday Oneg & Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Ann Bauman** In honor of Kelly Thiemann's welcoming into the covenant

24/25

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Nancy Silverrod** In memory of Elijah Michael Silverrod MacLachlan

January

7/8

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The Malakoff Family** In honor of Malik Bernstein, on the occasion of his becoming a bar mitzvah

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **The Desmond Bernstein Family** In honor of Malik Bernstein, on the occasion of his becoming a bar mitzvah

14/15

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Jo Ellen Green Kaiser** In memory of her grandmother, Sarah Linker

21/22

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Jeffrey Lilly** In memory of his friend, Luby Pelletier

28/29

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund** In honor of Cantor Unplugged IV

Our job is to get you noticed!

W

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Israeli Gay Teens to Share Their Stories

**BY JOSH WEISMAN, PROGRAM DIRECTOR
FOR A WIDER BRIDGE**

On the weekend of March 19-20, teens from the Israel Gay Youth Organization (IGY) will visit Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. The visit represents a unique chance to get to know Israeli LGBTQ teens and learn about Israeli LGBTQ society first-hand.

On the morning of Saturday, March 19, the teens will visit some of the classes of Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer. That evening, they will join in Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Purim party and Megillah reading.

On Sunday, March 20 at 6:00pm, the teens will speak and answer questions at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav at an event sponsored by A Wider Bridge and co-sponsored by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, the Israel Education Initiative of the Bureau of Jewish Education, the LGBT Alliance and the Israel Center of the Jewish Community Federation. The panel discussion with A Wider Bridge will give Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and the entire Bay Area community the opportunity to

hear first-hand stories of what it is like to be an LGBTQ teen in Israel today, and how these teens are being helped by IGY's support groups and programs.

The events of this weekend are part of the second annual visit by youth and staff of IGY to the Bay Area.

The Israel Gay Youth Organization was established in 2002 in order to provide a network of social support to LGBT and questioning teens. IGY now operates more than 40 support groups for LGBT teens in 25 cities in all parts of Israel. IGY states, "These support groups and other leadership programs are designed to empower teens, and train them to be the future leaders of not only the gay community, but the entire Israeli society."

A Wider Bridge, which also sponsored November's visit of Israel's LGBT Orthodox leaders, is an organization that seeks to build stronger ties between the LGBTQ Israeli community and the LGBTQ Jewish community in North America, and to provide a pathway for more LGBTQ Jews in North America to find meaningful engagement with Israel.

For more on this event and on A Wider Bridge, visit www.awiderbridge.org

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Personal Preparedness for Disaster

BY REGINA WURST,
TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR

I have been attending emergency preparedness training with San Francisco CARD (Community Agencies Responding to Disaster) for more than a year now. CARD helps me prepare Congregation Sha'ar Zahav for an emergency, and me as well! At our last meeting, I was lucky to win a Personal Fanny Pack Survival Kit. Because kits like this can make a difference in a disaster, such as a big earthquake, I thought I would share with all of you what I learned to put in such a personal survival kit. Mine is a fanny pack, but you could also use that old backpack you have lying around.

A personal survival kit should include:

- Food and water
- Radio and batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (5 day supply at least)
- Whistle
- Toilet paper; personal hygiene items
- Emergency lighting
- Garbage bags
- Change of clothing and hat
- Sturdy shoes
- Dust mask
- Pen, paper and tape
- Cash in small denominations
- Copy of personal identification and insurance
- Photos of family members
- Emergency contact phones and addresses
- Items for pets
- Activities for children

Kits can also be purchased from various on-line sources.

Here are a couple fascinating websites to explore, and keep in mind.

If you need to find help now or in an emergency, call 211 or visit www.211bayarea.org, which is operated by the United Way.

SFFind

gispub02.sfgov.org/website/nuviewer/monsmmap.asp is an amazing online site from the City and County of San Francisco. You can look by neighborhood and find services in your area.

Did you know that there are drinking water hydrants all around the city for use in a disaster? One is right at the corner of Dolores Park.

For more information on getting ready for an earthquake, visit <http://bayquakealliance.org/>

Be a Sponsor!

Commemorate a Yahrzeit, celebrate a special occasion, honor someone special by providing food after services (oneg/kiddush), beautiful flowers for our sanctuary, or the Friday Night Live pizza dinner.

Friday Oneg (\$180 & \$280)
Shabbat Kiddush (please contact Regina Wurst)
Bimah Flowers (\$130)
Friday Night Live Dinner (\$150)
Partial sponsorships available

To make this special kind of donation please contact Regina Wurst, regina@shaarzahav.org

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New Members

We warmly welcome the newest members of our congregation:

Billy Brahms
 Meagan Fox
 Maxwell Kopeikin
 Margaret Petty-Eifert

G3MH

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Condolences

To **Sharon Dulberg**, on the death of her father, Martin David Dulberg (father-in-law of **Ilana Drummond**, grandfather of **Micha and Ella Rose Drummond-Dulberg**)

To **Rebecca Weiner**, on the death of her mother, Shirley Weiner

To **Hilary Zaid, Lauren Augusta, Ro'e and Gil'i Zaid**, on the death of their aunt, Kena Zaid

To **Leo Hill**, on the death of his uncles, Huri O. Johnson and Reginald B. Johnson

To **Lynn Eden**, on the death of her father, Morton Eden (father-in-law of **Ruth Schoenbach**)

To **Stacey Shuster**, on the death of her aunt, Jill Fisher Glatt

To **Ben Lunine**, on the death of his friend, Soraya Vorster

To **Kelley Clements**, on the death of her aunt, Patricia Ann Miller

Member Yahrzeits

In Memory

March

- 6 Pearl Lewin
- 7 Isabel Fishman
- 8 Seth Charney
- 16 Jamie rosen
- 16 Theodore Mendonca Jr.
- 21 Sanford Lowe
- 23 Paul Nemrow
- 26 Michael Lipson
- 28 Neill Rosen
- 31 Marvin Steele
- 31 James Harris Freedgood

April

- 1 Adam Harris
- 2 Ronald Gertz
- 3 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Sterman
- 23 Michael Randall
- 24 Norma Faini-Pick

Read the JGF? Love the JGF? OK, Like the JGF?

If so, help us out! We are looking for the following "staff":

Ad Sales—why aren't Church St. Restaurants, Castro clubs, and medical professionals advertising with us? Make the JGF self-supporting by selling ads!

Asst. Editor—interested in publishing? Are you well-organized and good with words? Learn a new skill by helping out with the JGF!

Contact Regina Wurst at regina@shaarzahav.org

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